

# ACTS 24

## Truth on trial... AGAIN!

*4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

*2nd Corinthians 10:4-6*

The Truth on Trial in the Roman courts again! Just as Jesus stood in a Roman court mocked by the Jews, now Paul stands trial again, mocked by the religious elite of Israel. As the trial opens up we see quickly that the prosecution moves to false whiteness and flattery to appeal to the ego of Felix - the judge. They've hired a professional smooth-talking lawyer, but brought no real evidence other than 'we just don't like him'. They accuse him of leading a cult against their religion and religious law. However, in Paul's defense, not only does he speak for himself, but he brings evidence of the truth. First, he was only free in Jerusalem for a few days, not long enough to turn the whole Jewish world upside down. Further, his time spent in Asia would have surely brought some upset Jews from that region to bear witness against him, but not one could be found. And finally, he refutes the accusation of starting a cult, but openly confesses his love for the Jewish Law, that is his love of God's word, and bearing witness to the hope he has in Christ through the fulfillment of that scripture.

Notable points here demonstrate to us that the lie is always upset by truth while the truth has nothing to hide. The lie always wants to be the loudest voice in the room. Yet the truth is always confidently humble. Further, the lie is often afraid of the truth, and when mankind operates in fear, it can get volatile.

## Read Acts 24 together. What are your initial thoughts? What Stands out to you?

### Discussion Questions

1. God used Paul's "bad" Situation to bring the Gospel to the high political places of the Roman Empire. What bad situation in your life has God used to create a Gospel opportunity?
2. Felix would often question Paul in prison about his faith, maybe looking for a bribe, maybe out of curiosity, but as Paul spoke about the coming judgment, Felix was afraid. Why do you think people fear or resist the Gospel?
3. Lies often begin with flattery and end with treachery when the truth is spoken. The lie typically yells louder in an attempt to cover up the truth. In what ways do we see lies in the world trying to drown out biblical truths?
4. How do the enemies' lies impact us personally? How do we take the lie captive and trust in the truth of God?
5. Does your life demonstrate that you are a worshiper of the one true God?